



Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

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HOUSE GOP DENIES CHILD TAX CREDIT TO MILLIONS

WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Robert T. Matsui (D-CA) today expressed his deep disappointment with the House Republican leadership for refusing to consider a bill that would immediately provide 6.5 million working families with child tax credits.

Matsui joined House Democrats in calling on the Republican leadership to take up and pass a Senate bill that would restore the child tax credit for families earning between \$10,500 and \$26,625 a year. Republican conferees removed this provision from the final \$350 billion tax bill just before President Bush signed it into law. Had the conferees not stripped the credit, it would have helped nearly 12 million children, 25,000 of whom have parents on active duty in the military, according to the Children's Defense Fund.

Last week, the Senate overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan bill to reinstate the child tax credit for these families. The Senate bill increases customs fees to completely cover the cost of restoring the credit for over 6 million low-income families. Rather than support the Senate bill, House Republicans instead pushed a bill that includes additional tax cuts for upper income earners at a total cost of over \$80 billion with no offsets. Under the GOP bill, only 4 percent of the \$80 billion goes towards providing the child tax credit to the families who were left out of the \$350 tax law.

"The House Republican leadership demonstrated today that they are willing to deny fair tax relief to millions of hard working Americans until they can guarantee additional tax cuts for millionaires. The bill the Republicans demanded just shows how out of step their priorities are with those of the vast majority of Americans."

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